

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for issuing custom traps for a network containing disparate network devices, the method comprising:

5 storing a custom trap in a network manager, wherein the custom trap includes a triggering condition for a selected device among the network devices;

monitoring the selected device to detect whether the triggering condition has been met; and

10 in response to detecting that the triggering condition has been met, automatically issuing the custom trap.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the operation of automatically issuing the custom trap comprises automatically issuing the custom trap from the network manager to an administrative workstation.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein:

the operation of storing the custom trap comprises storing the custom trap in a Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) agent in the network manager; and

20 the operation of automatically issuing the custom trap comprises automatically issuing the custom trap from the SNMP agent to an administrative workstation.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein:

the selected device includes a device trap; and

25 the operation of automatically issuing the custom trap comprises automatically issuing the custom trap from the network manager to an administrative workstation in lieu of forwarding the device trap.

5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

30 receiving user input defining the custom trap, wherein the user input specifies an attribute of the selected device and a value for the triggering condition.

6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

receiving user input defining multiple custom traps, wherein the user input specifies different alert levels for at least two of the multiple custom traps.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the operation of storing a custom trap comprises storing a triggering condition that is based on attributes of two or more devices among the network devices.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the selected device comprises a first selected device and the custom trap comprises a first custom trap, the method further comprising:

storing a second custom trap for a second device;
using a first network protocol to monitor the first selected device; and
using a second network protocol to monitor the second selected device.

9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

accepting registrations from multiple network management stations; and
consulting the registrations to identify a recipient for the custom trap.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein:

the multiple network management stations comprise first and second network management stations;

the method further comprising storing a first set of custom traps in a first trap list and storing a second set of custom traps in a second trap list; and

the operation of accepting registrations from multiple network management stations comprises associating the first network management station with the first trap list and associating the second network management station with the second trap list, such that the custom traps in the first set are issued to the first network management station and the custom traps in the second set are issued to the second network management station.

11. A system for issuing custom traps for a network containing disparate network devices, the system comprising:

a network manager in communication with the network devices;

a trap list in the network manager;

a custom trap in the trap list, wherein the custom trap includes a triggering condition for a selected device among the network devices; and

control logic in the network manager that monitors the selected device to detect whether the triggering condition has been met and automatically issues the custom trap in response to detecting that the triggering condition has been met.

12. The system of Claim 11, wherein the network contains an administrative workstation, and wherein:

the network manager further comprises a Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) agent;

the network manager stores the custom trap in the SNMP agent; and

the SNMP agent automatically issues the custom trap to the administrative workstation.

13. The system of Claim 11, wherein the network manager further comprises:

a trap definition module that receives user input defining the custom trap, wherein the user input specifies an attribute of the selected device and a value for the triggering condition.

14. The system of Claim 11, wherein the network manager further comprises:

a trap definition module that receives user input defining multiple custom traps, wherein the user input specifies different alert levels for at least two of the multiple custom traps.

15. The system of Claim 11, wherein the custom trap comprises:

a triggering condition that is based on attributes of multiple devices in the network.

18. A program product for issuing custom traps for a network containing disparate network devices, the program product comprising:

a computer-usable medium; and

computer instructions encoded in the computer-usable medium, wherein the computer instructions, when executed by a data processing system, perform operations comprising:

storing a custom trap in a network manager, wherein the custom trap includes a triggering condition for a selected device among the network devices;

monitoring the selected device to detect whether the triggering condition has been met; and

in response to detecting that the triggering condition has been met, automatically issuing the custom trap.

19. The program product of Claim 18, wherein the operation of automatically issuing the custom trap comprises automatically issuing the custom trap from the network manager to an administrative workstation.

20. The program product of Claim 18, wherein:

the operation of storing the custom trap comprises storing the custom trap in a Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) agent in the network manager; and

the operation of automatically issuing the custom trap comprises automatically issuing the custom trap from the SNMP agent to an administrative workstation.

21. The program product of Claim 18, the computer instructions comprise:

a trap definition module that receives user input defining the custom trap, wherein the user input specifies an attribute of the selected device and a value for the triggering condition.

22. The program product of Claim 18, wherein the operations performed by the computer instructions further comprise:

receiving user input defining multiple custom traps, wherein the user input specifies different alert levels for at least two of the multiple custom traps.

23. The program product of Claim 18, wherein the operation of storing a custom trap comprises storing a triggering condition that is based on attributes of two or more devices among the network devices.

24. The program product of Claim 18, wherein the selected device comprises a first selected device, the custom trap comprises a first custom trap, and the operations performed by the computer instructions further comprise:

storing a second custom trap for a second device;

using a first network protocol to monitor the first selected device; and

using a second network protocol to monitor the second selected device.

25. The program product of Claim 18, wherein the operations performed by the computer instructions further comprise:

accepting registrations from multiple network management stations; and

consulting the registrations to identify a recipient for the custom trap.